

Executive Registry

69-4043

Spd

5 AUG 1969

PERSONAL - CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Sam J. Ervin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I very much appreciate your giving me the opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee in executive session on S. 782. I hope you and the other members found our presentation useful.

In response to your request, I have carefully reviewed the transcript of that hearing to ascertain if parts of my testimony could be made public without creating serious security problems for the Agency. I have concluded that this is not possible.

In presenting our case in executive session, I explained in some detail our security problems and procedures with the understanding that none of my testimony would be made public. To publish any meaningful portions of this testimony would, I am confident, provide hostile intelligence services with information which could be extremely useful in their continuing and intensive campaign to penetrate, deceive and harass us. In addition, if we were to take the unprecedented step of making public some of the details of our security procedures, it would definitely hamper us in keeping the confidence and cooperation of sensitive individual clandestine sources and foreign intelligence services on whom we often rely.

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I would like to be as cooperative as possible in this matter, but for the above reasons I feel that my statutory responsibility for protecting intelligence sources and methods precludes me from agreeing to the publication of my testimony.

Sincerely,

~~Mr. Richard Helms~~

Richard Helms
Director

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